

WAIVER OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS: FREE CITY OF DANZIG

*Exchange of notes at Washington October 29 and November 15, 1929,
and January 11 and 17, 1930*

Entered into force February 1, 1930

*Obsolete*¹

Department of State files

The Polish Minister to the Secretary of State

No. 2620/29

OCTOBER 29, 1929

SIR,

Acting upon instructions received from Warsaw, I have the honor to advise you, that the Senate of the Free City of Danzig has requested the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Poland, as the authority in charge of the foreign relations of the Free City, to approach the Government of the United States in the following matter:

The Danzig authorities require no visas for American citizens entering or passing through the territory of that city. Consequently, American visitors to Danzig do not have to pay visa fees. The Senate of the Free City of Danzig would, therefore, deem it very desirable if the Government of the United States would abolish, on the basis of reciprocity, all entry and transit visa fees for those citizens of the Free City of Danzig who do not fall into the class of immigrants within the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1924.²

Bringing the above to your kind attention I beg to add, that my Government will feel greatly obliged for a favorable decision of the Government of the United States regarding this request which I have the honor to submit to you on behalf of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

T. FILIPOWICZ

The Honorable

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of State

¹ See footnote 1, *ante*, p. 213.

² 43 Stat. 153.

The Secretary of State to the Polish Minister

NOVEMBER 15, 1929

SIR:

Reference is made to your note of October 29, 1929 (File No. 2620/29) suggesting, on behalf of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, the conclusion of a reciprocal agreement with the United States Government for the mutual waiver of visa fees, as regards citizens of the Free City of Danzig and of the United States, respectively, who are non-immigrants in the meaning of Section 3(2) of the Immigration Act of 1924.

In reply I have pleasure in requesting that you convey to the appropriate authorities of the Free City of Danzig the agreement of the United States Government to the suggestion referred to above, subject to further confirmation as to the effective date of such agreement, which it is proposed be fixed as January 1, 1930. Upon receipt of such confirmation this Department will send appropriate notification to its consular offices abroad in order that its terms may be put into effect as of the date agreed upon.

I may add as a matter of record that the classes of aliens who would be classified as non-immigrants are the following:

“(1) a government official, his family, attendants, servants, and employees,

(2) an alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure,

(3) an alien in continuous transit through the United States,

(4) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory,

(5) a bona fide alien seaman serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman, and

(6) an alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade under and in pursuance of the provisions of a present existing treaty of commerce and navigation.”

It may also be pointed out that no fees are charged by this government at present for the issue of passport visas to foreign government officials or to aliens passing in transit through the United States. The inclusion of classes (1) and (3) in the agreement would therefore confer upon citizens of the Free City of Danzig classifiable thereunder no new privilege which they do not already enjoy under existing laws and regulations.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

WILBUR J. CARR

Mr. TYTUS FILIPOWICZ
Minister of Poland

The Polish Minister to the Acting Secretary of State

No. 129/30

JANUARY 11, 1930

SIR:

Acting upon instructions received from Warsaw and with reference to your note of November 15, 1929, No. 811.11101 Waivers 60k, I have the honor to advise that the Senate of the Free City of Danzig has requested the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Poland, as the institution in charge of the foreign relations of the Free City to bring to the notice of the Government of the United States that the Senate of the Free City has no reservations as to the effective date of the agreement between the United States Government and the Free City of Danzig for the mutual waiver of visa fees, as regards citizens of the Free City and of the United States, respectively, who are non-immigrants in the meaning of Section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924.

I have the honor to suggest February 1, 1930, as the effective date of such agreement, and would be grateful if you would kindly inform me whether this date would be convenient to the United States Government.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

T. FILIPOWICZ

The Honorable

JOSEPH P. COTTON

Acting Secretary of State

The Acting Secretary of State to the Polish Minister

JANUARY 17, 1930

SIR:

Reference is made to your note No. 129/30 of January 11, 1930, suggesting that the reciprocal agreement between the United States Government and the Free City of Danzig for the mutual waiver of visa fees as regards citizens of the Free City of Danzig and of the United States, respectively, who are non-immigrants within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the Immigration Act of 1924, become effective February 1, 1930.

In reply I have pleasure in informing you that the effective date of the agreement as proposed by you is satisfactory to the United States Government, and that this Department is sending appropriate notification to its consular officers abroad in order that its terms may be put into effect as of the date February 1, 1930.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Acting Secretary of State:

WILBUR J. CARR

MR. TYTUS FILIPOWICZ

Minister of Poland